

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 03504 060932Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 060832Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2512

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 3504

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS NP

SUBJECT: ARREST OF PANCHAYAT MEMBER KHATRI AND FORMER
MEMBER THAPA

1. NEWSPAPERS REPORTED ON AUGUST 5 THE ARREST OF RASTRIYA
PANCHAYAT MEMBER GANESH BAHADUR KHATRI AND FORMER PANCHAYAT
MEMBER HARENDRA BAHADUR THAPA BY BAGMATI ZONAL AUTHORITIES.
BOTH MEM WERE ARRESTED UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITY ACT.
NO OTHER DETAILS WERE GIVEN.

2. COMMENT: THAPA, BROTHER OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER
SURYA BAHADUR THAPA (1967-69), IS KNOWN TO BE AN OUTSPOKEN
CRITIC OF PRIME MINISTER RIJAL. RUMOR HAS IT THAT THAPA
AND KHATRI WERE ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF INCITING THE CURRENT
COUNT OF STUDENT DISORDERS IN AN EFFORT TO EMBARRASS RIJAL. IT
IS ALSO RUMORED THAT HOM BAHADUR SHRESTHA, HOME MINISTER FROM
MARCH 1974 TO APRIL 1975, WILL BE ARRESTED. THESE ARRESTS
MAY SIGNAL THE BEGINNING OF A GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO RESTORE
ORDER ON THE CAMPUSES AND PREVENT FUTURE OUTBREAKS OF
STUDENT DISSENT. THE GOVERNMENT HAS JUST SET UP A
COMMITTEE UNDER THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
TO ENSURE THAT THE UNIVERSITY IS RUN "IN CONFORMITY WITH
ITS RULES, POLICY AND PROGRAM, AND ALSO IN KEEPING WITH
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THE LARGER WELFARE OF THE STUDENTS." OF NOTE IS THE FACT

THAT THE COMMITTEE IS EMPOWERED TO TAKE "STRINGENT/ MEASURES
AGAINST INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS WHO ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT CLASSES.
A FURTHER INDICATION OF POSSIBLE STERNER GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES
TOWARD STUDENT DISORDER WAS A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN THE
GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED "RISING NEPAL," AUGUST 5 EDITION,
DECRYING RECENT INCIDENCES OF STUDENT VIOLENCE.
CARGO

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NNN

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